

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the final Examiner's Action mailed October 6, 2004. The amendment appearing above and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Action. Accordingly, this important patent application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Office has allowed claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 21-36.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicant acknowledges the quotation of 35 U.S.C § 102(a).

Claims 29-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 60/055,453 to Hofmann et al. Claims 29-36 have been cancelled without traverse.

By cancellation or amendment of these claims, applicants only wish to advance prosecution of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute one or more subject matter in the original claims in one or more continuation applications and that equivalence to these claims have not been relinquished by these amendments.

If the Office is not fully persuaded as to the merits of Applicant's position, or if an Examiner's Amendment would place the pending claims in condition for allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned at (727) 507-8558 is requested.

Very respectfully,

SMITH & HOPEN

By: 

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Dated: January 6, 2005
Reg. 41,849

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

(37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Amendment F is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Technology Center 1600, Art Unit 1635, Attn: Jon E. Angell, (703) 872-9306 on January 6, 2005.

Dated: January 6, 2005


Deborah Preza